

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A patrol vehicle safety mirror, for attaching to a patrol car having a front, a driver side, and a driver side rear-view mirror, for use when an officer is walking back to the patrol car from a stopped vehicle located in front of the patrol car, comprising:

a main housing, having a front and a rear surface, a mirror plate attached at the front and is oriented forwardly for allowing the officer to view a reflection from the front; and

a mounting arm, attached and extend from the rear of the main housing and extending laterally for mounting to the patrol car such that the front of the main housing is oriented in the direction of the front of the patrol car.

2. The safety mirror as recited in claim 1, wherein the main housing has a socket adjacent the rear surface thereof, and wherein the mounting arm is attached to the main housing with a ball assembly having a ball that is pivotally mounted within the socket.

3. The safety mirror as recited in claim 2, wherein the plug has an axial bore, the mounting arm has an open rear surface and a receptacle for accepting the plug, and wherein a central screw extends through the open rear surface of the mounting arm and extends into the axial bore for fastening the plug in the receptacle.

4. The safety mirror as recited in claim 3, wherein the mounting arm has a mounting arm flange for attaching the mounting arm flange to the door of the patrol car.

5. The safety mirror as recited in claim 4, wherein the safety mirror further comprising a mounting plate having a semi-spherical collar; wherein the rear surface of the main housing has a mounting plate recess for accommodating the mounting plate flush with the rear surface of the main housing; wherein the socket is adjacent to the rear surface of the main housing; and wherein when the mounting plate is attached within the mounting plate recess the ball is accommodated between the socket and the semi-spherical collar for allowing the ball to rotate and pivot therein for allowing the main housing to pivotally adjust with respect to the mounting arm.

6. The safety mirror as recited in claim, further comprising a mounting arm cover, for attaching to and

covering the open rear surface of the mounting arm following securement of the plug within the receptacle.

7. A safety mirror method, for use by a police officer with a patrol car having a front, a rear, a driver side door, and a driver side rear view mirror, using a safety mirror having a main housing having a front surface and rear surface, a mounting arm, and a mirror surface at the front surface of the main housing, comprising the steps of:

attaching the safety mirror to the patrol car with the front surface and the rear surface oriented forwardly with respect to said patrol car;

positioning the patrol vehicle rearwardly of a stopped vehicle; and

standing in front of the patrol vehicle and facing the patrol vehicle by the police officer while viewing the stopped vehicle in the mirror surface of the safety mirror by the police officer.

8. The safety mirror method as recited in claim 7, wherein the step of standing in front of the patrol vehicle and facing the patrol vehicle while viewing the stopped vehicle in the mirror surface of the safety mirror by the police officer further comprises walking toward the front of the

patrol vehicle in a lane of oncoming traffic while simultaneously watching the stopped vehicle in the mirror surface and watching the oncoming traffic.

9. The safety mirror method as recited in claim 8, wherein the step of attaching the safety mirror to the patrol car further comprises attaching the mounting arm to the driver side door of the patrol car.

10. The safety mirror method as recited in claim 9, wherein the step of attaching the safety mirror to the patrol car further comprises attaching the safety mirror adjacent the driver side rear view mirror.

11. The safety mirror method as recited in claim 10, wherein the main housing has a ball, and the mounting arm has a socket for accommodating the ball, and wherein the step of attaching the safety mirror to the patrol car further comprises adjusting the safety mirror by pivoting and rotating the main housing by pivoting and rotating the ball within the socket.